

ENVIRONMENTAL CHECKLIST

Purpose of Checklist:

The State Environmental Policy Act (SEPA), Chapter 43.21 RCW, requires all governmental agencies to consider the environmental impacts of a proposal before making decisions. An environmental impact statement (EIS) must be prepared for all proposals with probable significant adverse impacts on the quality of the environment. The purpose of this checklist is to provide information to help you and the agency identify impacts from your proposal (and to reduce or avoid impacts from the proposal, if it can be done) and to help the agency decide whether an EIS is required.

Instructions for Applicants:

This environmental checklist asks you to describe some basic information about your proposal. Governmental agencies use this checklist to determine whether the environmental impacts of your proposal are significant, requiring the preparation of an EIS. Answer the questions briefly, with the most precise information known, or give the best description you can.

You must answer each question accurately and carefully, to the best of your knowledge. In most cases, you should be able to answer the question from your own observations or project plans without the need to hire experts. If you really do not know the answer, or if a question does not apply to your proposal, write "do not know" or "does not apply". Complete answers to the questions now may avoid unnecessary delays later.

Some questions ask about governmental regulations, such as zoning, shoreline, and landmark designations. Answer these questions if you can. If you have problems, the governmental agencies can assist you.

The checklist questions apply to all parts of your proposal, even if you plan to do them over a period of time or on different parcels of land. Attach any additional information that will help describe your proposal or its environmental effects. The agency to which you submit this checklist may ask you to explain your answers or to provide additional information reasonably related to determining if there may be significant adverse impact.

Use of checklist for nonproject proposals:

Complete this checklist for nonproject proposals, even though questions may be answered "does not apply." **IN ADDITION, complete the SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS (Part D).**

For nonproject actions, the references in the checklist to the words "project," "applicant," and "property or site" should be read as "proposal," "proposer," and "affected geographic area," respectively.

A. BACKGROUND

1. Name of proposed project, if applicable:

Bellingham Bay Harbor Lines Relocation (HLR)

2. Name of applicant:

Port of Bellingham

3. Address and phone number of applicant and contact person:

101 Roeder Ave., Bellingham, WA 98225, (360) 676-2500 Contact Person: Mike Stoner

4. Date checklist prepared:

November 8, 2006

5. Agency requesting checklist:

Washington State Department of Natural Resources

6. Proposed timing or schedule (including phasing, if applicable):

Final Action decision by the Harbor Line Commission is anticipated by January 2, 2007.

7. Do you have any plans for future additions, expansion, or further activity related to or connected with this proposal?
If yes, explain.

The relocation of the harbor lines will create unplatted tidelands. There is a possibility for the DNR to exercise the option of platting these lands if the agency deems it beneficial for the public interest, and exchange them or sell them to a public entity. Any future activities to be proposed along the newly created harbor area and/or tidelands and shorelands, will have to comply with the required local, state, and federal regulations.

8. List any environmental information you know about that has been prepared, or will be prepared, directly related to this proposal.

The DNR has implemented the Procedure to Relocate State Harbor Lines, which documents DNR's approach to evaluating harbor area configurations and recommending revisions as staff to the Harbor Line Commission.

9. Do you know whether applications are pending for governmental approvals of other proposals directly affecting the property covered by your proposal? If yes, explain.

The Washington State Department of Ecology (Ecology) has released for public review two documents: the Draft Supplemental Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study (RI/FS), and the draft Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) addressing the cleanup of contaminated bottom sediments at the Whatcom Waterway Site in Bellingham, Washington. Regardless of the alternative chosen by Ecology, the final cleanup activities will not impact the proposed relocation of the harbor lines.

10. List any government approvals or permits that will be needed for your proposal, if known.

Does not apply.

11. Give brief, complete description of your proposal, including the proposed uses and the size of the project and site. There are several questions later in this checklist that ask you to describe certain aspects of your proposal. You do not need to repeat those answers on this page. (Lead agency may modify this form to include additional specific information on project description.)

The Port of Bellingham has requested the Harbor Line Commission to consider relocation of the inner and outer harbor lines along the City of Bellingham's waterfront and the Fairhaven area (see Attachment A).

12. Location of proposal. Give sufficient information for a person to understand the precise location of your proposed project, including a street address, if any, and section, township, and range, if known. If a proposal would occur over a range of area, provide the range or boundaries of the site(s). Provide a legal description, site plan, vicinity map, and topographical map, if reasonably available. While you should submit any plans required by the agency, you are not required to duplicate maps or detailed plans submitted with any applications related to this checklist.

The State Harbor Area is located within Bellingham Bay, which parallels the City of Bellingham's shoreline. The following Townships, Ranges and Sections can be used to locate the site proposal.

- Township 38 North, Range 02 East, Sections 23, 24, 25 and 36, W.M.
- Township 37 North, Range 02 East, Sections 1, 2, 11, 13, 14, and 24, W.M.

B. ENVIRONMENTAL ELEMENTS

1. Earth

- a. General description of the site (circle one): Flat, rolling, hilly, steep slopes, mountains, other:

The topography of the area includes flat offshore aquatic bedlands and tidelands. The bathymetry of the shoreline varies and includes relatively flat gravel beaches and constructed shoreline features including rip-rap, piers/wharves, concrete/wooden bulkheads, marine railways and a mix of industrial, commercial and residential development.

- b. What is the steepest slope on the site (approximate percent slope)?

Does not apply

- c. What general types of soils (for example, clay, sand, gravel, peat, muck)? If you know the classification of agricultural soils, specify them and note any prime farmland.

Offshore sediments consist of fine-grained silts. The nearshore sediments may range from silt to sand and gravel. Some other areas may include wood debris and hazardous materials accumulated as a result of commercial and

industrial activities.

d. Are there surface indications or history of unstable soils in the immediate vicinity? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

e. Describe the purpose, type, and approximate quantities of any filling or grading proposed. Indicate source of fill.

Does not apply.

f. Could erosion occur as a result of clearing, construction, or use? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

g. About what percent of the site will be covered with impervious surfaces after project construction (for example, asphalt or buildings)?

Does not apply.

h. Proposed measures to reduce or control erosion, or other impacts to the earth, if any:

Does not apply.

2. Air

a. What types of emissions to the air would result from this proposal (i.e. dust, automobile, odors, industrial wood smoke) during construction and when the project is completed? If any, generally describe and give approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply.

b. Are there any off-site sources of emissions or odor that may affect your proposal? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control emissions or other impacts to air, if any:

Does not apply.

3. Water

a. Surface:

1) Is there any surface water body on or in the immediate vicinity of the site (including year-round and seasonal streams, saltwater, lakes, ponds, wetlands)? If yes, describe type and provide names. If appropriate, state what stream or river it flows into.

Bellingham Bay.

2) Will the project require any work over, in, or adjacent to (within 200 feet) the described waters? If yes, please describe and attach available plans.

Does not apply.

3) Estimate the amount of fill and dredge material that would be placed in or removed from surface water or wetlands and indicate the area of the site that would be affected. Indicate the source of the fill material.

Does not apply.

4) Will the proposal require surface water withdrawals or diversions? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply.

5) Does the proposal lie within a 100 year floodplain? If so, note location on the site plan.

Does not apply.

- 6) Does the proposal involve any discharges of waste materials to surface waters? If so, describe the type of waste and anticipated volume of discharge.

Does not apply.

b. Ground:

- 1) Will groundwater be withdrawn, or will water be discharged to groundwater? Give general description, purpose, and approximate quantities if known.

Does not apply.

- 2) Describe waste material that will be discharged into the ground from septic tanks or other sources, if any (for example: Domestic sewage; industrial, containing the following chemicals . . .; agricultural; etc.). Describe the general size of the system, the number such systems, the number of houses to be served (if applicable), or the number animals or humans the system(s) are expected to serve.

Does not apply.

c. Water Runoff (including storm water):

- 1) Describe the source of runoff (including storm water) and method of collection and disposal, if any (include quantities if known). Where will this water flow? Will this water flow into other waters? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- 2) Could waste material enter ground or surface waters? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

d. Proposed measures to reduce or control surface, ground, and runoff water impacts, if any:

4. Plants

a. Check or circle types of vegetation found on the site:

- ☐ deciduous tree: alder, maple, aspen, other
☐ evergreen tree: fir, cedar, pine, other
☐ shrubs
☐ grass
☐ pasture
☐ crop or grain
☐ wet soil plants: cattail, buttercup, bulrush, skunk cabbage, other
☒ water plants: water lily, eelgrass, milfoil, other
☐ other types of vegetation

b. What kind and amount of vegetation will be removed or altered?

Does not apply.

c. List threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Does not apply.

d. Proposed landscaping, use of native plants, or other measures to preserve or enhance vegetation on the site, if any:

Does not apply.

5. Animals

a. Circle any birds and animals which have been observed on or near the site or are known to be on or near the site:

birds: hawk, heron, eagle, songbirds, other:

mammals: deer, bear, elk, beaver, other:

fish: bass, salmon, trout, herring, shellfish, other:

- b. List any threatened or endangered species known to be on or near the site.

Puget Sound Chinook Salmon, Bull Trout, Marbled Murrelet, Bald Eagle

- c. Is the site part of a migration route? If so, explain.

Bellingham Bay is located along the Pacific flyway for migrating bird species. The Bellingham Bay shorelines are located along migration corridors for juvenile salmonid species.

- d. Proposed measures to preserve or enhance wildlife, if any:

Does not apply.

6. Energy and Natural Resources

- a. What kinds of energy (electrical, natural gas, oil, wood stove, solar) will be used to meet the completed project's energy needs? Describe whether it will be used for heating, manufacturing, etc.

Does not apply.

- b. Would your project affect the potential use of solar energy by adjacent properties? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply.

- c. What kinds of energy conservation features are included in the plans of this proposal? List other proposed measures to reduce or control energy impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

7. Environmental Health

- a. Are there any environmental health hazards, including exposure to toxic chemicals, risk of fire and explosion, spill, or hazardous waste that could occur as a result of this proposal? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

- 1) Describe any emergency services that might be required.

Does not apply.

- 2) Propose measures to reduce or control environmental health hazards, if any:

Does not apply.

- b. Noise

- 1) What types of noise exist in the area which may affect your project (for example: traffic, equipment, operation, other)?

Does not apply.

- 2) What types and levels of noise would be created by or associated with the project on a short-term basis (for example: traffic, construction, operation, other)? Indicate what hours noise would come from the site.

Does not apply.

- 3) Proposed measures to reduce or control noise impacts, if any:

Does not apply.

8. Land and Shoreline Use

- a. What is the current use of the site and adjacent properties?

The uses include: maritime industrial-commercial, single-family and multi-family residential uses; shipyard, boat launch and sea food processing facilities, ferry terminal operations and other marine industrial activities related

to the Fairhaven industrial park.

b. Has the site been used for agriculture? If so, describe.

Does not apply.

c. Describe any structures on the site.

The structures include: bulkheads, over-water wharves, piers and docks, barge loading facilities and terminal-associated buildings. There is a floating dry dock structure located at the Fairhaven Marine Industrial Park, and upland buildings associated with these uses.

d. Will any structures be demolished? if so, what?

Does not apply.

e. What is the current zoning classification of the site?

The following zoning designations are included for this area: High Impact Industrial (HII) and Light Impact Industrial (LII); Recreation Open Space (ROS), Neighborhood Commercial (NC) and Urban Residential 3 Units/acre. The areas outside the City of Bellingham's zoning (south of the City of Bellingham) are designated under Whatcom County zoning as Rural Residential (RR).

f. What is the current comprehensive plan designation of the site?

The City of Bellingham's current general use designations for its shoreline include: industrial, commercial, industrial/mixed waterfront and single family residential.

g. If applicable, what is the current shoreline master program designation of the site?

Under the current City of Bellingham's Shoreline Master Program (SMP), the existing shoreline designations for the area include: Urban Maritime, Conservancy I, II and III, Urban Multi-Use, Urban and Natural. The City of Bellingham is in the process of updating its SMP and is proposing a New Whatcom Special Development Area shoreline environmental designation for a segment of the City's waterfront.

h. Has any part of the site been classified as an "environmentally sensitive" area? If so, specify.

Yes, both the upland and aquatic environments and associated habitat of the shoreline areas of Bellingham Bay are regulated under the City of Bellingham's and Whatcom County's Critical Areas Ordinance and Shoreline Master Programs.

i. Approximately how many people would reside or work in the completed project?

Does not apply

j. Approximately how many people would the completed project displace?

Does not apply

k. Proposed measures to avoid or reduce displacement impacts, if any:

Does not apply

l. Proposed measures to ensure the proposal is compatible with existing and projected land uses and plans, if any:

Does not apply

9. Housing

a. Approximately how many units would be provided, if any? Indicate whether high, middle or low-income housing.

Does not apply

b. Approximately how many units, if any, would be eliminated? Indicate whether high, middle, or low-income housing.

Does not apply

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control housing impacts, if any:

10. Aesthetics

- a. What is the tallest height of any proposed structure(s), not including antennas; what is the principal exterior building material(s) proposed?

Does not apply

- b. What views in the immediate vicinity would be altered or obstructed?

Does not apply

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control aesthetic impacts, if any:

Does not apply

11. Light and Glare

- a. What kind of light or glare will the proposal produce? What time of day would it mainly occur?

Does not apply

- b. Could light or glare from the finished project be a safety hazard or interfere with views?

Does not apply

- c. What existing off-site sources of light or glare may affect your proposal?

Does not apply

- d. Proposed measures to reduce or control light and glare impacts, if any:

Does not apply

12. Recreation

- a. What designated and informal recreation opportunities are in the immediate vicinity?

There is a marina owned and operated by the Port of Bellingham that offers access to the water and supports navigation and recreational activities for paying members.

- b. Would the proposed project displace any existing recreational uses? If so, describe.

Does not apply

- c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts on recreation, including recreational opportunities to be provided by the project or applicant, if any:

Does not apply

13. Historic and Cultural Preservation

- a. Are there any places or objects listed on, or proposed for, national, state, or local preservation registers known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

A former structure known as "Citizen's Dock" was located at the head of Whatcom Waterway. The dock was inventoried and nominated to the National Register of Historic Places. Due to the poor condition of the dock, the City of Bellingham removed it in 2000.

- b. Generally describe any landmarks or evidence of historic, archeological, scientific, or cultural importance known to be on or next to the site? If so, generally describe.

Cultural and archeological resources were described in the 2000 Bellingham Bay Pilot Final EIS issued by the Department of Ecology. Historic and archaeological resources may be present throughout Bellingham Bay. These would include: Archaeological deposits associated with early industry which include docks and wharves. Tribal consultations were conducted under the Bellingham Bay Demonstration Pilot. Representatives of the Lummi Nation indicated that Bellingham Bay is generally considered culturally significant to the Lummi people, and multiple hunter-fisher-gatherer archaeological sites have been identified along the shore of Bellingham Bay. The

consultations also included discussions on the historic Lummi Canoe landing area in the old Town district near the mouth of Whatcom Creek. Additional information pertaining to locations of recorded cultural and archaeological resources is confidential and on file with the Tribes and State of Washington Department of Archaeology and Historic Preservation.

c. Proposed measures to reduce or control impacts, if any:

Does not apply

14. Transportation

a. Identify public streets and highways serving the site, and describe proposed access to the existing street system. Show on site plans if any.

Does not apply

b. Is the site currently served by public transit? If not, what is the approximate distance to the nearest transit stop?

Does not apply

c. How many parking spaces would the completed project have? How many would the project eliminate?

Does not apply

d. Will the proposal require any new roads or streets, or improvements to existing roads or streets, not including driveways? If so, generally describe (indicate whether public or private).

Does not apply

e. Will the project use (or occur in the immediate vicinity of) water, rail, or air transportation? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply

f. How many vehicular trips per day would be generated by the completed project? If known, indicate when peak volumes would occur.

Does not apply

g. Proposed measures to reduce or control transportation impacts, if any:

Does not apply

15. Public Services

a. Would the project result in an increased need for public services (for example: fire protection, police protection, health care, schools, other)? If so, generally describe.

Does not apply

b. Proposed measures to reduce or control direct impacts on public services, if any.

Does not apply

16. Utilities

a. Circle utilities currently available at the site: electricity, natural gas, water, refuse service, telephone, sanitary sewer, septic system, other.

b. Describe the utilities that are proposed for the project, the utility providing the service, and the general construction activities on the site or in the immediate vicinity which might be needed.

Does not apply

C. SIGNATURE

The above answers are true and complete to the best of my knowledge. I understand that the lead agency is relying on them to make its decision.

Signature: Kristen Swank

Review by: _____

Title: ASSISTANT DIVISION MANAGER - PROGRAM DEVELOPMENT - D.N.R.

Date: Nov. 8, 2006

D. SUPPLEMENTAL SHEET FOR NONPROJECT ACTIONS

(Do not use this sheet for project action)

Because these questions are very general, it may be helpful to read them in conjunction with the list of the elements of the environment.

When answering these questions, be aware of the extent of the proposal, or the types of activities likely to result from the proposal, would affect the item at a greater intensity or at a faster rate than if the proposal were not implemented. Respond briefly and in general terms.

1. How would the proposal be likely to increase discharge to water; emissions to air; production, storage, or release of toxic or hazardous substances; or production of noise?

It is difficult to assess these impacts at this time, however, if some of the tidelands were developed into water dependent uses supporting navigation and commerce, there is the possibility of potential impacts, which would be addressed through the required environmental review and permitting procedures.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce such increases are:

Implementing Best Management Practices

2. How would the proposal be likely to affect plants, animals, fish or marine life?

It is difficult to assess these impacts at this time. Any future development along these areas would be addressed through the required environmental review and permitting procedures.

Proposed measures to protect or conserve plants, animals, fish, or marine life are:

Implementing Best Management Practices

3. How would the proposal be likely to deplete energy or natural resources?

Does not apply

Proposed measures to protect or conserve energy and natural resources are:

Does not apply

4. How would the proposal be likely to use or affect environmentally sensitive areas or areas designed (or eligible or under study) for governmental protection: such as parks, wilderness, wild and scenic rivers, threatened or endangered species habitat, historic or cultural sites, wetlands, floodplains, or prime farmlands?

Any future development along these areas would be addressed through the required environmental review and permitting procedures.

Proposed measures to protect such resources or to avoid or reduce impacts are:

Implementing Best Management Practices

5. How would the proposal be likely to affect land and shoreline use, including whether it would allow or encourage land or shoreline uses incompatible with existing plans?

The preferred alternative to move the harbor lines has analyzed compatibility with existing and proposed local shoreline and land uses.

Proposed measures to avoid or reduce shoreline and land use impacts are:

Implementation of protection measures incorporated in the local Shoreline Master Program and comprehensive plan under the Shoreline Management Act and Growth Management Act respectively.

6. How would the proposal be likely to increase demands on transportation or public services and utilities?

Does not apply

Proposed measures to reduce or respond to such demand(s) are:

7. Identify, if possible, whether the proposal may conflict with local, state, or federal laws or requirements for the protection of the environment.

The preferred alternative has evaluated compatibility with local planning activities, federal laws, state regulations and Tribal interests.

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